



Construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin

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The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin is prepared by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to aid all projects and operations in maintaining compliance with Storm Water Pollution Prevention regulatory requirements.

Non-Storm Water Discharges... Concrete Waste Management



Meeting the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit includes the proper disposal of concrete washout by the contractor. The use of appropriate and consistent concrete washout practices has been identified as a common challenge throughout the State by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force. This Bulletin is dedicated to addressing the Concrete Washout Best Management Practice (CD16).



Concrete washout pits constructed of plastic sheeting and sand bags

Concrete washout is a potential pollution source on most Caltrans construction projects. Concrete wash must be contained to prevent pollutants from entering storm drain systems and natural water courses.



Concrete washout pits constructed of plastic sheeting and wood beams

Additionally, it is important that concrete wash not be discharged onto vegetation or into areas planned for landscaping. The washout can inhibit vegetative growth. These concerns must be continually addressed throughout the year.

Following are some key aspects of Concrete Washout practices.

- ☒ Dumping of concrete wash should take place at a pre-determined disposal area.
- ☒ Designated washout areas should be located at least 15 meters (50 feet) away from drainage facilities and be capable of containing the concrete waste until proper disposal can be made.
- ☒ Drivers and equipment operators must be instructed in proper disposal and washout procedures if the BMP is to be successful.
- ☒ As appropriate, concrete may be disposed of through on-site burial in

accordance with Caltrans Standard Specification 15-3.02.

Some ideas to improve Concrete Washout practices include:

- ☒ Posting signs at the washout area.
- ☒ Forming containment using straw bales, sand bags or wood beams lined with plastic sheeting.
- ☒ Digging a pit and/or building a berm for containment.



Well-designed concrete washout area

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks.

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